



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/876,793	06/07/2001	Kang Soo Seo	46500-000610/US	9026
30593 7590 03/26/2009 HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195				
EXAMINER				
SHELEHEDA, JAMES R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2424				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/26/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/876,793

Applicant(s)

SEO ET AL.

Examiner

JAMES SHELEHEDA

Art Unit

2424

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20, 22, 25-27 and 30-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20, 22, 25-27 and 30-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to Taira have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 10, applicant argues that Taira discloses that thumbnail pictures are stored among video and audio files, and thus are not stored as a block.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In this case, Takahashi was relied upon to disclose a system for playing back a recorded video (column 9, lines 18-31 and lines 52-61). The menus for the video include thumbnails corresponding to particular sections for the video (column 12, lines 7-62 and column 5, line 21-column 7, line 7).

Taira discloses a system for recording/playing back a video (movie file; column 11, lines 41-43) where the menu data files, including a group of thumbnail pictures (Fig. 5; column 11, lines 38-column 12, line 26), are stored together as a block of menu data (Fig. 5; column 11, lines 38-column 12, line 26).

Thus, the combination of Takahashi and Taira was relied upon to disclose storing the thumbnail pictures together as a block of data, as Takahashi's menu includes only

thumbnails, and not video/audio data, and Taira's system discloses storing the menu data together as a block of data.

Taira discloses where the menu cells, 90, would store video data, sub-picture data **or** audio data related to the selection (column 11, lines 47-54). Thus, in combination with Takahashi, the menu cells would include sub-picture (image data), as that is the available data which is related to the menu selection.

The mere fact that Taira's system would *also* be compatible with audio files instead video files does not require that any audio data be must present and mixed with the menu thumbnails.

Furthermore, it is noted that Taira discloses wherein the menu data is sequentially numbered and arranged based upon the *order* the files are recorded (column 11, lines 38-54, Fig. 4-5). Thus, even if an audio title was also recorded, it would not be interspersed with the thumbnail data, as all of the data of the first movie file is recorded together in order (Fig. 4-5).

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to Chen have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45 and 47-49 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (Takahashi) (6,483,983) (of record) in view of Taira et al. (Taira) (6,009,234) (of record).

As to Claim 20, while Takahashi discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of menu data, comprising:

a video data storing area storing one or more playback units of video data (disk area dedicated to storing recorded video; column 9, lines 18-31 and lines 52-61);

a menu data storing area storing menu data comprising one or more thumbnail pictures corresponding to each playback units (thumbnails also recorded on the disk; column 12, lines 7-62), each thumbnail stored as a block of menu data on the computer readable medium (picture array menu; column 2, lines 32-54 and column 9, lines 8-51 and column 12, lines 32-56); and

a menu management area storing menu management information, the menu management information providing an index to menu data (column 9, lines 8-51 and column 12, lines 20-23 and 49-56), identifying the thumbnail pictures in the menu data file (stored table identifying each picture, its address, and its position in the array, disclosed at column 12, lines 32-62),

wherein the thumbnail pictures in the menu data are reproduced based on the menu management information (column 5, line 21-column 7, line 7), he fails to specifically disclose menu data files including a group of thumbnail pictures, the group

of thumbnail pictures stored together as a block of menu data, the block corresponding to one of the menu data files.

In an analogous art, Taira discloses a computer readable medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of menu data (Fig. 4 and 5; column 8, lines 25-44 and column 11, lines 38-61) including menu data files including a group of thumbnail pictures (Fig. 5; column 11, lines 38-column 12, line 26), the group of thumbnail pictures stored together as a block of menu data (Fig. 5; column 11, lines 38-column 12, line 26) for the typical benefit of taking advantage of a known method of recording menu data, which would provide a more efficient storage/retrieval method by grouping the data together compared to a system in which the menu data was stored in plural disparate positions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify Takahashi's system to include menu data files including a group of thumbnail pictures, the group of thumbnail pictures stored together as a block of menu data, the block corresponding to one of the menu data files, as taught in combination with Taira, for the typical benefit of taking advantage of a known method of recording menu data, which would provide a more efficient storage/retrieval method by grouping the data together compared to a system in which the menu data was stored in plural disparate positions.

Claims 30-33 correspond to Claim 20. Thus, each is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed. (**Note:** the "optical pickup" and "controller" components to

read/write data of claims 31 and 33 are disclosed at column 3, line 63-column 4, line 33, column 7, lines 50-57 and column 9, lines 22-31).

As to claims 25, 35, 39, 43 and 47, Takahashi and Taira disclose wherein the controller is configured to control recording the menu management information (recording the menu data on the disk; column 5, line 21-column 7, line 16, column 9, lines 36-51 and column 12, lines 7-57), the menu management information indicating a number of reduced pictures stored in the menu data area (wherein each movie has a defined and numbered listing of pictures associated with it; see Fig. 3; column 5, line 21-column 7, line 16, column 9, lines 36-51 and column 12, lines 7-57).

As to claims 26, 36, 40, 44 and 48, Takahashi and Taira further teach the use of "head indexing," a well-known technique in video reproduction. Head indexing is a process by which addresses are attached to various frames in a data stream, thereby providing quick access to desired frames (i.e., the reduced pictures) in the picture array. (Col. 1, Ln. 27-44). Takahashi and Taira disclose wherein the controller is configured to control recording the menu management information (recording the menu data on the disk; column 5, line 21-column 7, line 16, column 9, lines 36-51 and column 12, lines 7-57) which provides a starting address of a frame displayed in the array, this address would, in essence, be a starting and ending address since a "frame" is a defined point (i.e., beginning and end) in the data stream. Following this logic, it would be inherent

that the addresses (i.e., frames) indicate the number of frames stored on the DVD.

Accordingly, Takahashi anticipates each and every limitation of Claim 26.

As to claims 27, 37, 41, 45 and 49, since each frame (i.e., thumbnail) in the array has a corresponding address identifier, it is inherent the array include said starting addresses. Accordingly, Takahashi and Taira disclose each and every limitation of Claim 27.

5. Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi and Taira and further in view of Uchide (US 2001/0028789 A1).

As to claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46 and 50, as indicated above, Takahashi and Taira disclose each and every claim limitation except wherein the menu data area records padding data between at least two of the blocks of menu data. However, within the same field of endeavor, Uchide discloses a similar system wherein padding packets are inserted (i.e., appended) between other packets within the video stream (see Fig. 4-5; paragraph 51) prior to recording on a recording medium (3; Fig. 1; paragraph 49-53) for the purpose of ensuring that the stream is correctly recorded by compensating for any differences in the encoding rate vs. the recording rate (paragraphs 48-52). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the systems of Takahashi and Uchide in order to ensure that the

Art Unit: 2424

stream is correctly recorded by compensating for any differences in the encoding rate vs. the recording rate.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

Art Unit: 2424

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on _____.
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. () _____ - _____ on _____.
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES SHELEHEDA whose telephone number is (571)272-7357. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2424

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James Sheleheda/
Examiner, Art Unit 2424

JS